

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Rewrite claims 8 and 11, and add new claim 12 as indicated below.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A bone screw according to claim 11 characterised in that said shaped bottom land has in cross-section an obtuse angle (β) of conical convergence towards the longitudinal axis of the screw.
3. (Original) A bone screw according to Claim 2, characterised in that said obtuse angle (β) is an angle of at least 150°.
4. (Previously Presented) A bone screw according to claim 11, in which the acute angle of the cross-sectional profile of said teeth is in the range of 15° to 30°.
5. (Previously Presented) A bone screw according to claim 11, characterised in that said constant pitch is of 1.25mm.
6. (Previously Presented) A bone screw according to claim 11, characterised in facing walls of adjacent threads have in cross-section an acute angle (α) of conical convergence towards the longitudinal axis of the screw.
7. (Original) A bone screw according to Claim 6, characterised in that said acute angle (α) is an angle in the 15° to 30° range.
8. (Currently Amended) A bone screw according to claim 4-11, characterised in that the threaded portion (5) accounts for [about] one third of the screw length.
9. (Previously Presented) A bone screw according to claim 11, characterised in that the height of the thread is three fifths the pitch length.
10. (Original) A bone screw according to Claim 9, characterised in that said height is 0.75mm.
11. (Currently Amended) A bone screw for use in orthopaedic surgery with external fixture fixation devices comprising a head at one end, a shank, and a single threaded portion at an opposite end, a non-threaded shank between said head and threaded portion, said head having a non-threaded configuration for securing by an orthopaedic external fixation device, said threaded portion having an outside diameter and a core diameter which tapers toward a tip at an end opposite from the head, said threaded portion having at least one

constant pitch section, said threaded portion having threads formed with an acute angle generally triangular cross-sectional profile, said threads being separated from each other by a shaped bottom land having a concave profile defined by two countersloping planes, and said threads having a constant height with the ratio of the outside diameter to said core diameter within a range of 1.43 to 1.60.

12. (New) A bone screw according to claim 11 in which said shank is cylindrical and said threaded portion and head have diameters no greater than the diameter of said shank.